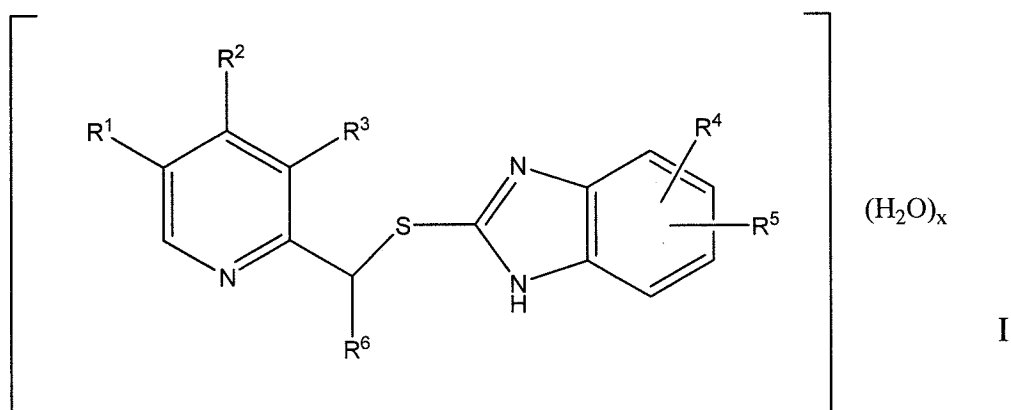


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A crystal of optionally substituted 2-(2-pyridinyl) methylthio-1H-benzimidazole hydrate of the following structural formula I



in which

R^1 , R^2 and R^3 , identical or different, denote hydrogen, a C1-C8 alkyl, C3-C8 cycloalkyl, C2-C8 fluoroalkyl or C1-C8 alkoxy moiety,

R^4 and R^5 , identical or different, denote hydrogen, a C1-C8 alkyl, C3-C8 cycloalkyl, CH₂-C3-C8 cycloalkyl, C1-C8 alkoxycarbonyl, C1-C8 alkoxy, C1-C8 fluoroalkoxy, CF₃-, C2-C8 fluoroalkyl or C(O)O-C1-C8 alkyl moiety and

R^6 denotes hydrogen or a C1-C2 alkyl moiety and

x means 0.5-2.

2. (Previously Presented) A crystal according to claim 1, in which

R¹, R² and R³, identical or different, denote hydrogen, a C1-C3 alkyl or C1-C3 alkoxy moiety,

R⁴ and R⁵, identical or different, denote hydrogen, a C1-C3 alkoxy, C1-C3 fluoroalkoxy moiety and

R⁶ denotes hydrogen and x means 0.5-2.
3. (Previously Presented) A crystal according to claim 1, in which R¹ denotes a methyl group, R² a methoxy group, R³ a methyl group, R⁴ hydrogen, R⁵ a methoxy group in position 5 and R⁶ hydrogen and x means 0.5-2.
4. (Previously Presented) A crystal according to claim 1, in which R¹ denotes hydrogen, R² and R³ in each case denote a methoxy group, R⁴ denotes hydrogen, R⁵ a difluoromethoxy group in position 5 and R⁶ hydrogen and x means 0.5-2.
- 5.-16. (Canceled)